

REMARKS

Claims 1-8; 10; 11-17; 19; and 20-22 are pending. Claim 9 was previously canceled. Claim 18 is canceled herein. The examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 1-8; 10; 11-17; 19; and 20-22 are allowable over the prior art.

Drawings

Applicants note that one of the reference labels in FIG. 4 is incorrect. FIG. 4 has been amended by change of reference label --22-- to --24--. The amendment corrects a typographical error, resolving a discrepancy with FIGS. 1 and 2, and is not material to patentability. Accordingly, no new material has been added, and no estopples are intended thereby.

Specification

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the disclosure is objected to because of the informality that the detailed description of FIGS. 3 and 4 fails to explicitly describe all of the elements/features designated by reference labels.

The specification has been amended in response to the Examiner's comments. The amendment is merely formal in nature and not material to patentability. Applicants submit that the amendment obviates the Examiner's objections, and that no new material has been added thereby. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

In the Office Action, Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants hereby cancel Claim 18, rendering the rejection moot.

The Examiner is thanked for the suggested clarifying changes to Claims 1, 7, 11, and 20. The Examiner's suggested changes are adopted without exception.

Application No.: 09/838,542
Docket No.: 87326.1980

Patent

CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If it is believed that any further issue exists, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely received or a further extension is required, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any additional fees may be charged to or overpayment credited to Deposit Account No. 50-2036.

Respectfully submitted,

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